(a) whether the Government have announced a number of measures for decongesting ports and making them more customer-friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been prepared in this regard;

(d) if so, whether instructions to this effect had been conveyed to all the major ports;

(e) if so, whether all the major ports have been asked to produce results in three months;

(f) if so, the other guidelines issued to the port Chairman for making ports more consumer-oriented;

(g) if so, the steps undertaken by the Chairman of ports in this regard; and

(h) whether new ports are also proposed to be developed to remove decongestion and meet this future load, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. A three months long campaign has been launched w.e.f. 1.9.1997 with an overall objective of decongesting Major Ports; improving productivity and to reduce the pre-berthing detention to less than 24 hours.

(f) and (g) Regular meetings with Port Users are being held at the Port to sort out the problems of early evacuation of cargo and for decongestion of ports in response to the instructions issued in this regard. Co-opertion of labour is sought to achieve higher productivity.

(h) No, Sir.

Centrally Aided Schemes/Projects in Tamil Nadu

867. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the Centrally aided Schemes/Projects which are being launched in Tamil Nadu and the financial and physical progress achieved during the last year, Project-wise;

(b) the details of new projects submitted by the State Government for consideration and approval alongwith action taken by the Government on them, Project-wise; and

(c) the details of projects submitted by the State Government seeking financial assistance from the World Bank and other International Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (c) The details of the environmental and forestry projects launched in Tamil Nadu with the Central and foreign assistance during the last three years alongwith achievements made, both financial and physical, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) During 1997-98, proposals from the State have been recieved under the schemes of Non Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants for Rs. 18 lakhs and under Seed Development Scheme for Rs.10 lakhs. While the former has been referred back to the State Government for being recast as per revised guidelines and cost norms of the scheme, the latter is under consideration of the Ministry. Another proposal under consideration is release of funds for the Management Action Plan for the Muthupet mangroves in the State. Two proposals have been received from Tamil Nadu Government for Conservation of Ooty and Kodiakanal Lakes under NLCP. However, the scheme is under consideration for Cabinet clearance.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Broad Objective	Status	Achievement during the last three years 1994-95, 95-96 & 96-97	
				Financial	Physical
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Paryavaran Vahini Scheme	Create environmental awareness through active participation of public	Ongoing	—	Constituted in 7 districts
2.	Conservation of Mangroves	Conservation and Management of Mangroves	Ongoing	28.81	2 Mangroves covered

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Biosphere Reserve Scheme	To implement the Management Action Plan for the 2 Biosphere Reserves set up in the State	Ongoing	64.88	2 Biosphere Reserves covered
4.	National River Conservation Plan Scheme	Pollution abatement of River Cauvery	A scheme for Pollution Abatement Work for Cauvery River covering five towns of Tamil Nadu viz. Kumarapalyam, Bhawani, Erode, Trichy and Pallipallayam at a total cost of Rs. 38.2 crore has been approved on equal sharing of cost by Centre and State. So far an amount of Rs. 195.35 lakhs has been released by the Centre for implementation of the Cauvery Action Plan.		
5.	World Bank Pollution Control Project	To prevent and alleviate environmental degradation caused by Industrial operations	The project involves a line of credit of US$ 155.6 million and counterpart funds of US$ 108 million to be provided by Government of India, State Governments, Financial Institutions and Industrial units availing loan. Under the project 4 States including Tamil Nadu are covered. There is no specific allocation for each State.		
	-Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)	Setting up of CETPs, Laboratories Training Programme	Ongoing	848.78	26 CETPs covered
6.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Scheme	Augmenting supply of fuelwood & fodder in identified fuelwood deficit districts	Ongoing	334.47	5800 ha.area covered.
7.	Non Timber Produce including Medicinal Plants	Raising Non Timber Produce including Medicinal Plants	Ongoing	69.49	1350 ha.area covered.
8.	Integrated Afforestation & Eco-development project scheme.	Promote afforestation and Eco-development	Ongoing	126.36	1944 ha. area covered.
9.	Seed Development Scheme	To development . infrastructure for quality seeds	Ongoing	2.42	Target fixed in terms of financial releases

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Project Tigar	To ensure viable Popu lation of Tigers	Ongoing	82.395	2 Tiger Reserves covered.
11.	Central Zoo Authority	Scheme Upgradation of Zoos	Ongoing	21.23	3 Zoos were covered.
12.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	To develop National Parks and Sanctuaries	Ongoing	56.51	16 National Parks covered.
13.	Project Elephant	To ensure long term survival of elephants	Ongoing	34.40	Target fixed in terms of financial releases.
14.	Eco-development around protected areas	To provide alternative sustenance to communi-ties living on fringes of National Parks	Ongoing	8.16	3 National Park Sanctuaries covered.
15.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods	Controlling forest fires to protect and conserve forests	Ongoing	17.72	Target fixed in term of financial releases
16.	Assistance to Botanic Gardens	To upgrade Botanic Gardens.	Ongoing	18.55	3 Botanic Gardens covered.
17.	Grants-in aid Scheme	Financial assistance to Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Voluntary Agencies (Vas) for afforestation and tree planting activities	Ongoing	64.12	Target fixed in term of financial releases.
18.	Clean Technology by Small Scale Industry	Adoption of Clean Technology/process by Small Scale Industry	Ongoing	3.00	Feasibility study for Tanneries.
19.	National Lake Conservation Plan	Conservation	—	—	The whole scheme has been posed for assistance from World Bank. Ooty and Kodiakanal Lakes from Tamil Nadu are also covered in the scheme.